

A review of drive

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Abstract

A brief review of life drive and death drive is given.

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Introduction

As animals, we experience both life drive and death drive. Life drive and death drive are also known as life instinct and death instinct, or Eros and Thanatos.

Internal drive is based on thoughts. External drive is based on actions. Drive can either be direct, or indirect. For example, indirect internal drive is unconscious thought, and direct internal drive is conscious thought. Also for example, indirect external drive is a null action (no direct action occurs), and direct external drive is a direct action.

Conception is life overdrive. Manslaughter, murder, and suicide are death overdrive.

For a classical (Freudian) view on drive, see [1]. For a modern (post-Freudian) view on drive, see [2, 3, 4].

Further examples

1. Consider Darth Vader's thoughts and actions near the end of the film Return of the Jedi, where he saves Luke Skywalker from certain death. Vader is experiencing:
 - Direct internal life overdrive: conscious thoughts about saving Luke's life.
 - Direct internal death overdrive: conscious thoughts about committing suicide/homicide – killing himself and the Emperor at the same time.
 - Direct external death overdrive: electrocuting himself/killing the Emperor.
 - Indirect external life overdrive: doing nothing directly to Luke (a null action), yet still saving his life.
2. Schizophrenics can hallucinate death overdrive in situations where it's a matter of just plain death drive, or even life drive for that matter. The resulting reaction from the hallucinating schizophrenic can be dangerous.

3. Consider small communities where the suicide rate is much higher than the national average. Death overdrive seems infectious.
4. When you say a compliment, it consists of life drive. When you say an insult, it consists of death drive.
5. Sexual intercourse can consist of both life drive and death drive, depending on the intentions of the participants. For example:
 - Consensual vaginal sex consists of life drive for both participants.
 - Consensual anal sex consists of life drive for both participants.
 - Vaginal rape consists of both life drive and death drive for both participants. This life drive is not to say that vaginal rape is pleasurable for the victim, but that vaginal rape can beget a zygote.
 - Anal rape consists of death drive for both participants. This death drive is not to say that anal rape is not pleasurable for the rapist, but that pleasure can consist of death drive.
6. When you tell the truth, it consists of life drive. When you tell a lie, it consists of death drive. When you tell a white lie, it consists of both life drive and death drive.
7. Consider the mythology of the suicidal/homicidal bile bear, where the bile bear kills the bile cub, and then kills itself. Death overdrive. Same goes for farmed dogs, for meat. Surely some meat dogs feel the urge to commit suicide/homicide.
8. There is much life drive in those who train their bodies.
9. There is much death drive in those who smoke cigarettes and do drugs.
10. There is much death drive in those who are homophobic.

References

- [1] Sigmund Freud - Beyond the Pleasure Principle - ISBN: 978-0486790305

- [2] Jean Laplanche - The So-Called 'Death Drive': a Sexual Drive - British Journal of Psychotherapy

- [3] Rob Weatherill - The Death Drive: New Life for a Dead Subject? - ISBN: 978-1900877145

- [4] Hyman Spotnitz - Modern Psychoanalysis of the Schizophrenic Patient, Theory of the Technique, Second Edition - ISBN: 978-0970392367